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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by the Reverend Joe Bates, Sr., from the Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church of Alabama.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, Father of all humankind, we come before You with humble hearts to ask for Your blessings and guidance.

Pour out Your wisdom and discernment upon these elected representatives of Your people, and fill their hearts with peace and good will. Enable them, we pray, to practice just and merciful leadership that will bless and enhance the lives of all of our citizens.

We thank You, O God, for all the ways You have led us in the past. Bless us this day by helping us to walk in Your path of righteousness so that justice and peace may prevail in our Nation and in our world.

To You, dear God, we give our honor and our praise, even as we seek Your mercy, and we pray to You in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 10, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business until 2:15 p.m. today, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes. At 10:30, Senator MORAN will be recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes to deliver his maiden speech to the Senate. At 2:15 p.m., the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Max Oliver Cogburn, Jr., of North Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a total of 45 minutes for debate on the nomination, with the provisions of the previous order remaining in effect, and that the vote on confirmation of the nomination occur at 3 p.m. today rather than at 2:30.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. As a result of the agreement just entered, there will be a vote

on confirmation of the Cogburn nomination at 3 p.m. today.

Further, the Senate Small Business Committee reported S. 493, the SBIR and STTR Reauthorization Act of 2011. They did that yesterday, and we hope to begin consideration of that bill early next week.

### ACTING TO STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is time once again for us to get down to business. Yesterday's budget votes didn't bring us any closer to a conclusion, but it did bring to our minds a lesson, and it does that very clearly. That lesson is that one party alone will not reach a resolution without the other's cooperation and consent.

We voted on the Republican budget proposal and on the Democratic budget proposal. Neither plan came close to the 60 votes needed to pass or even the 51 votes which would represent a majority of the Senate. But the exercise wasn't in vain. We have demonstrated publicly and on the record that we know the answer lies somewhere in the middle. Now it is time to find that answer in a budget that will reflect our values, keep the country running, and create jobs.

I can speak only for my caucus when I say we accept the lessons of yesterday's vote. We know we will have to make sacrifices to reach consensus, and we are willing to do that. Republicans have to be willing to move their position also. Perhaps they are willing to finally acknowledge that, given our deep debt, we can't afford government giveaways to millionaires and oil companies making record profits. Both acknowledgments would help close the deficit gap. Both would be big pieces to the puzzle.

Perhaps Republicans are willing to offer more reasonable cuts that the Democratic caucus can support. By reasonable cuts, I mean cuts that don't

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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